



Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
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Dear Chairman Jones and Judiciary Committee Members,

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) supports HB 5020 and HB 5021 eliminating the sunset on Michigan's successful Sobriety Court ignition interlock program. And, most importantly, MADD urges the Senate Judiciary Committee's support of ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers in Michigan.

The Legislative Fiscal Analysis of HB 5020 and HB 5021 notes that **"Early project evaluations indicate a high compliance rate among program participants, especially in regards to using ignition interlock devices. An evaluation released earlier this year by the Michigan Association of Drug Court Professionals reported that program participants had lower drug and alcohol use than nonparticipants and also had a lower recidivism rate than for other criminal offenses."**

As with the program in Michigan, Sobriety Court interlock participants are repeat offenders. Given the high compliance rates and lower recidivism rates of the program, MADD asks the committee to consider amending the legislation and/or other existing measures to stop drunk drivers from reoffending starting on the first offense by incentivizing the use of ignition interlocks for any first-time convicted drunk driver with an illegal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or greater for at least six months. MADD believes any first-time offender immediately following a DWI should have the option to either go on an ignition interlock with unrestricted driving privileges or have no driving privileges during a license suspension.

An interlock costs a convicted DWI offender about \$2.50 a day to lease. In Michigan, offenders unable to afford interlock will have one provided at a lesser cost. MADD understands the Secretary of State's office has concerns with implementing HB 5020 and HB 5021. MADD believes ignition interlock legislation can be revenue neutral with costs offset by additional fees charged to interlock vendors and interlock users. For example, Illinois requires non-indigent interlock users to pay a \$30 monthly monitoring fee and takes a small portion of interlock vendor profits to offset costs to the state.

Therefore, considering the success of the Sobriety Court interlock program, MADD respectfully requests for this Committee to consider implementing the use of interlocks starting on the first-offense to prevent repeat offenses and to save lives. Currently, 20 states have similar laws that require interlocks for all DWI drivers who want to drive during a license suspension following a DWI. In Michigan, ignition interlocks are required for all repeat and first-time offenders with a BAC of .17 or greater.

Conservatively, a first-time convicted drunk driver has driven drunk at least 80 times prior to being arrested. I support requiring interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers because 50 to 75 percent of convicted drunk drivers continue to drive without a license. License suspension alone is not the most effective way to protect the public from convicted drunk drivers or to rehabilitate the offender. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), interlock systems have been shown to reduce repeat offenses by 67 percent on average.

MADD urges this committee's support for HB 5020 and HB 5021. We ask for your consideration of amending legislation to require the use of ignition interlocks for all first-time DWI offenders with an illegal BAC of .08 or greater seeking driving privileges during a license suspension. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Tyler MacEachran  
MADD Michigan Executive Director

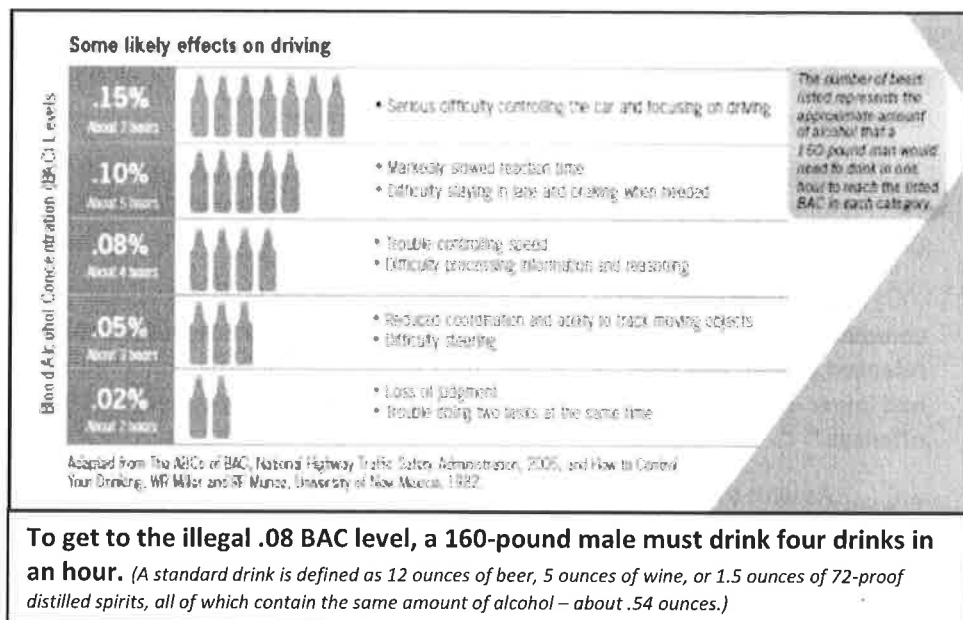
Enclosures



## Ignition Interlocks Save Lives

Ignition interlocks are small breathalyzers linked to a vehicle's ignition system. The convicted drunk driver must blow into the device to start the car. If the driver's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is above the preset level the car will not start.

Ignition interlocks are effective in reducing repeat drunk driving offenses by 67 percent, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). And, all offender interlock laws are found to reduce repeat offenses significantly, when effectively implemented.



First-time offenders are serious offenders. Research from the CDC indicates that first time offenders have driven drunk at least 80 times before they are arrested. Additionally, research has found that first offenders' patterns of recidivism are generally similar to a repeat offender.

### The FACTS

- An interlock is more effective than license suspension alone, as 50 to 75 percent of convicted drunk drivers continue to drive on a suspended license.
- States requiring all convicted drunk drivers to use an ignition interlock, such as Arizona, Oregon, New Mexico and Louisiana have cut DUI deaths by over 33 percent.
- All-offender interlock laws are widespread. Twenty states, plus a California pilot program (covering a population of over 13 million) have laws requiring ignition interlocks for all first-time convicted drunk drivers.
- As of July 2013, there are approximately 305,000 interlocks in use in the United States, including 8,197 in Michigan.

MADD supports the immediate reinstatement of driving privileges for convicted drunk drivers provided the offender uses an ignition interlock for the remainder of the license suspension period. Three surveys indicate 76 to 88 percent of the public support interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers:

- 88 percent (Center for Excellence in Rural Safety, 2010)
- 84 percent (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 2009)
- 76 percent (American Automobile Association, 2012)

**In addition to MADD, other traffic safety groups support ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers, including all first offenders with an illegal BAC of .08 or greater.**

- Advocates for Auto and Highway Safety
- American Automobile Association (AAA)
- Auto Alliance
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS)
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- National Safety Council
- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

*For more information about ignition interlocks, please visit [madd.org/interlock](http://madd.org/interlock).*

# Status of State Ignition Interlock Laws

Interlock requirement starts on the first conviction			
Mandatory with a BAC of .08 or greater		Mandatory with a BAC of .15 or greater	
Alaska (1/09)	Missouri (3/14)	Alabama (9/12)	New Hampshire .16 BAC (7/07)
Arizona (9/07)	Nebraska (1/09)	Delaware (7/09)	New Jersey (1/10)
Arkansas (4/09)	New Mexico (6/05)	Florida (10/08)	North Carolina (12/07)
California Pilot Program* (7/10)	New York (8/10)	Iowa** .10 BAC (7/95)	Oklahoma (11/11)
Colorado (1/09)	Oregon (1/08)	Maryland (10/11)	Texas (9/05)
Connecticut (1/12)	Tennessee (7/13)	Michigan .17 BAC (10/10)	Wisconsin (7/10)
Hawaii (1/11)	Utah (7/09)	Minnesota .16 BAC (7/11)	Wyoming (7/09)
Illinois (1/09)	Virginia (7/12)	Nevada .18 BAC (7/05)	
Kansas (7/11)	Washington (1/09)		
Louisiana (7/07)	West Virginia (7/08)		
Maine (12/13)			

(month/year listed note effective date)

Mandatory with a second conviction	Not mandatory
Georgia (5/99)	Judicial discretion
Idaho (10/00)	California for any offender
Massachusetts (1/06)	Indiana for any offender
Mississippi (7/14)	Kentucky for any offender
Montana (5/09)	North Dakota for any offender
Ohio (9/08)	Rhode Island for repeat offenders
Pennsylvania (10/03)	Other
South Carolina (1/09)	DC any offender can choose to go an interlock
	South Dakota part of the 24/7 program
	Vermont any offender can choose to go an interlock

Revised July 2013

\* California's pilot program covers the counties of Los Angeles, Alameda, Sacramento, and Tulare. These counties combined have a population of over 13 million.  
\*\* In Iowa, interlocks are required starting on the first conviction for offenders with a BAC of .10 or greater.

